

Appl. No. 10/828,804

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1971

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

After entering this amendment, claims 1-20 remain pending with claims 1, 4-7, 9, and 11-20 currently under examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4-7, 9 and 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017805 to Carroll et al. ("Carroll") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,554,527 to Hall ("Hall"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With respect to the embodiment of Hall cited by the Examiner and illustrated in Fig. 4, Hall discloses a shock absorber 30 that includes outer and inner chamber walls 32 and 34 defining a respective first chamber volume 36 and an internal chamber volume 38. (*Hall*, col. 2, lines 66-71, Fig. 4.) The first chamber volume 36 and the internal chamber volume 38 are in fluid communication with an ambient environment through a plurality of apertures 40 defined within the outer and inner chamber walls 32 and 34. (*Id.* at col. 2, lines 71-72.)

Referring now to claim 1, it is submitted that Hall at least fails to disclose an *enclosed* hollow interior. Since the outer and inner chamber walls 32 and 34 of Hall include a plurality of apertures 40 placing the internal chamber volumes 36 and 38 into fluid communication with the ambient environment, the rejection based thereon should accordingly be withdrawn.

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Regarding claim 13, it is submitted, for at least the same reason noted above, that Hall fails to disclose *closed* first and second elements. In addition, it is further noted that Hall discloses a shock-absorber 10 having a *spherical* contour, a shock absorber 54 having a *toroidal* shape with a *circular* cross section, and shock absorber *spheres* 72, 74, 76, 78, and 80. (*Id.* at col. 2, line 13, col. 3, line 35, col. 4, line 1 and Figs. 2, 4, 7, and 9.) From this it is submitted that Hall fails to disclose *dome-shaped* first and second elements. Accordingly, the rejection based thereon should also be withdrawn.

In that Hall fails to disclose or suggest the enclosed and closed elements which were also noted as being absent in Carroll, it must be concluded that the combination of Carroll in view of Hall cannot render the claims of the present application as obvious. The rejection under § 103 is therefore improper and should be withdrawn.

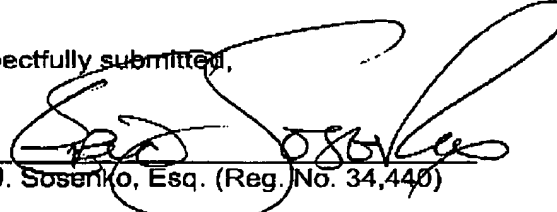
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Date

8/14/06

Respectfully submitted,


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